**FRIENDS OF THE JAMESTOWN RIGHTS OF WAY WORK SESSION**

**October 12, 2016**

 **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Town Administrator Andy Nota called the workshop to order at 6:03 PM as an informational session on the 39 Rights of Way in Jamestown.

 **II. ROLL CALL**

 Andrew Nota, Town Administrator

 Samira Hakki, Presenter for Friends of the Jamestown Rights of Way

 **III. RIGHTS OF WAY WORK SESSION**

Mr. Nota opened the session with an explanation of who the volunteers in the Friends of the Rights of Way group are. They assembled a few years ago to identify and go into the field to gather information to access the condition of each Right of Way.

Anne Kuhn-Hines of Conservation Committee questioned whether the natural vegetation will be preserved in the Rights of Way. The Friends have taken a great step and have done a wonderful job working with Boy Scouts in refurbishing some of the Rights of Way. The Conservation Committee is excited that people are interested in helping with the maintenance of the Rights of Way.

Carol Nelson-Lee of the Friends of the Rights of Way explained the grassroots vision of making sure the Rights of Way are safe, well marked and well maintained to encourage usage. They came up with an assessment tool by the experienced volunteers to evaluate each Right of Way.

Samira Hakki of the Friends of Rights of Way presented a short power point presentation. She explained there are two different Rights of Way—the passive view scape and those that can be used actively for fishing, beach walking etc.

She showed the assessment tool that they used for each Right of Way. They rated each on public accessibility, visibility, encroachment and possible problems. They also noted potential uses such as: walking or sitting, access to water, fishing, boat access. The condition of each was color coded. Red—not good, Green—good and in use, and Yellow—somewhere in between. A question from an audience member wanted to know when the map would be ready. It was hoped to be finished in another couple of months.

Wayne Turner of Seaside Dr. wanted to know if the information was public. It isn’t available yet but will be reconfigured and put on the web site.

Charlotte Zarlengo of Seaside Dr. noted that some ROW are not friendly shoreline access with no stairs or dangerous paths to the water. Is the town going to engage CRMC for yearly maintenance?

 Mr. Nota responded that the town has worked with CRMC covering 7 maintenance agreements, and to put designated signs to set corners. There have been repairs to the concrete ramp on Champlin Way. CRMC is not looking to undo any improvements to the landscape that has been done or to impede the view corridor that has been mowed. High Street ROW was opened up so people could enjoy the view. This is a good example of a view scape ROW. There is a bench and a split rail fence to keep people safe from the dropoff.

Timothy Yentsch of Gondola St. asked if CRMC could restrict access to residents only or must it be open to the general public. The concerns are fishermen coming from off the Island, parking in restricted areas and throwing trash on the ground. What resources are available from the town to clean up the Rights of Way? Mr. Nota responded that the Recreation Department is fully staffed to maintain the Rights of Way and that it must be open to the general public.

Gary Girard of Seaside Dr. had a question on what could be done about the invasive species on the beaches. Mr. Nota responded that CRMC is willing to work with the town on that problem. Phragmites are a big problem. Anita Girard of Seaside Dr. asked how big the signs will be. Mr. Nota responded they would be about 8” x 10”.

Charlotte Zarlengo wanted to know why the Town doesn’t devote money to Heads Beach rather than all the little Rights of Way going up to Capstan. If you improve Heads Beach attendance will go up. Mr. Nota noted most Rights of Way are not developed. Monetary investment would be minimal.

Carl Bednarczyk of Capstan St. noted that access to the Capstan St. Right of Way is limited because of parking. The path down to the water is dangerous.

A resident (not identified) complained that a dead deer washed up by the Champlin Way ROW and he couldn’t get anyone (Town or State) to remove it. It finally floated out to sea. The Town should be liable for the ROW.

Claudette Cotter of Seaside Dr. said people abuse the Rights of Way. This summer people on the Right of Way by their house went on their deck and took chairs, made a lot of noise and threw trash all over.

Michael Abbood of Middle St. noted that the parking at Park Dock was adequate, but that there is a huge problem with a lot of trash. There are whole families fishing and cooking on the beach leaving trash behind many staying into the night. There should be local enforcement from sunrise to sunset.

Michael Egan of Champlin Way had many complaints about maintenance, upkeep, and the Town’s responsibility in the maintenance of the Rights of Way.

Town Administrator Andy Nota responded to Mr. Egan and asked him to meet with him to discuss this further.

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:03.

Attest:

Karen Montoya

Deputy Town Clerk